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Message Text

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61
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 MCT-01 DHA-02 AID-05

CCO-00 FBOE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 SP-02

OC-06 OPR-02 PA-02 USSS-00 PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01 SCSE-00

OMB-01 SS-15 SY-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PC-05 ARA-10 /114 W
---------- 045318
R 101426Z NOV 76
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6119
INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS PRETORIA 5132

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, SREF, AO, WAS
SUBJECT: ANGOLAN FIGHTING CONTINUES

REF: PRETORIA 5078

1. NOVEMBER 10 MORNING PRESS CARRIES LEAD STORY HEADLINED "BLOODBATH AS ANGOLA ERUPTS". ARTICLE QUOTES REFUGEES ARRIVING IN OVAMBO AS SAYING THAT "MASSACRES AND MASS BURIALS" ARE TAKING PLACE AS RESULT OF JOINT MPLA/CUBAN/SWAPO EFFORT TO ELIMINATE UNITA BEFORE ANGOLA'S FIRST NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS ON NOVEMBER 20. THREE THOUSAND REFUGEES SAID
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TO HAVE CROSSED BORDER INTO SOUTH WEST AFRICA OVER LAST

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FEW DAYS. REPORT STATES THAT FOR FIRST TIME INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS HAS PROMISED AID TO HELP CARE FOR REFUGEES.

2. STORY ALSO CARRIES ANGOLAN CLAIM THAT NO FIGHTING IS GOING ON IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA, AND ACCUSATION THAT SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES IN NAMIBIA HAVE BEEN SHELLING ANGOLA. LATTER ACCUSATION WAS DENIED BY SAG DEFENSE MINISTER P.W. BOTHA. AFRIKAANS MORNING PRESS SEES ACCUSATION AS "COMMUNIST ATTEMPT TO INVOLVE SOUTH AFRICA IN THE BLOOD-LETTING AND VIOLENCE IN THE NEW WAR ON OUR BORDER".

3. AFTERNOON PRESS REPORTS THAT UNITA FORCES HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO RESIST ARMOR AND ARTILLERY ATTACKS, AND ARE "DESPERATELY TRYING TO ESCAPE TO THE SAFETY OF THE BUSH COUNTRY IN SOUTHEAST ANGOLA". UNITA REPORTED IN "DIRE STRAITS" WITH SUPPLY LINES CUT AND LIMITED AMMUNITION. BORDER BETWEEN NAMIBIA AND ANGOLA HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN SEALED BY MPLA, WITH ONLY FIFTEEN REFUGEES CROSSING ON NOVEMBER 9, COMPARED WITH HUNDREDS IN EACH OF PREVIOUS DAYS OF FIGHTING.
BOWDLER

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